

# CESAR CHAVEZ

## SAINT OR MARXIST?

Cesar Chavez is travelling throughout the country in an effort to drum up support for his program of imposing compulsory closed shop and unionism upon the nation's farm community. A religious reverence for Cesar Chavez has prevented many people from objectively appraising the issues involved and the tactics used by Chavez and his union. Let us take a brief, but important, look into these questions.

Cesar Chavez began his National Farm Workers Union in 1962, when he resigned from the Community Services Organization. His interest in farm unions began with his friendship with Fred Ross, an associate of another friend Saul Alinsky, who was an out spoken Marxist-Leninist revolutionary.

Chavez had little luck in getting his union going, for the farm workers did not want nor did they need a union. California already had the highest wage rates in the nation, and the growers provided their workers with top benefits. The workers were happy and content.

In order to dramatize and gain support for his cause, Chavez called his first strike in 1965. Because, as he later admitted, "workers could make up to \$ 400.00 per week during harvest ", Chavez called in outside help to stage the strike.

As Rev. Daniel Lyons, S.J., writing in "Twin Circle" Catholic newspaper, noted: " Chavez called for a strike against the growers, but he could never get more than a handful of workers to go out with him. So he hired pickets who were non-workers, and induced hippies, members of the S.D.S., and other characters from Berkeley campus and elsewhere to picket various ranches. Newspapers and TV crews then interviewed these pickets as though they were workers out on strike."

For his cause, Chavez gained the support of many radical groups and persons. As the " Fourteenth Annual Report of the California Senate Fact-finding Committee on Un-American Activities" reported, " the evidence shows that the Delano grape strike was of exceptional interest to the Communist Party and the leftists who supported it." The strike was " turned into a civil rights movement and operated as a cause, not a labor dispute. This view is amply supported by the activity of known members of the Communist Party who were on the scene and aiding the strike almost from its inception; by the favorable accounts that consistently appeared in the Communist press; by the participation in strike demonstrations of such organizations as the DuBois Clubs of America; Students for a Democratic Society; Progressive Labor Party; Vietnam Day Committee; Trotskyite groups and other organizations moved by similiar objectives; by the reports of all law-enforcement agencies connected with the subject."

Among Cesar's top aides was Luis Valdez of the Communist Progressive Labor Party, who had trained for revolutionary activity in Communist Cuba. Cesar's personal speech writer was Wendy Goepel, a delegate to the Communists' Eighth World Youth Festival in Helsingfors. His secretary was Donna Sue Haber, a founder of the Communist W.E.B. Du Bois Clubs

On Cesar's list of supporters are: The Congress of Racial Equality ( CORE ); the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee; the Free Speech Movement of Berkeley campus; the notorious Harry Bridges; revolutionary agitators H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael; leftist U.S. Senators Walter Mondale, Eugene McCarthy, Ralph Yarborough and Edward

Kennedy; the Black Panthers; the National Catholic Welfare Conference; an assortment of so-called Roman Catholic priests, bishops, and nuns; liberal Protestant clergy members; radical Gloria Steinem; CBS; The New York Times ( you'll remember that they also praised Castro as the George Washington of Cuba when he was just coming to power ); the Washington Post; the Los Angeles Times; and the Communist Daily World.

At the first union election on the DiGiorgio farms, one of the farms Cesar singled out for his operations, Chavez lost the election to the teamsters. He demanded a new election, claiming that he was picketing the first one.

For the new election, Chavez was ready. He had bus loads of sympathetic friends imported, some from as far away as Jalisco, Mexico ( 3,000 miles away ). Even with all this outside help, Chavez managed to win the election by only 147 votes.

Soon after this victory, DiGiorgio's payroll fell from about 5,000 employees to none, for, with the loss of morale among the workers, incentive and, therefore, productivity, declined. The workers themselves refused to show up for work as long as Chavez was the union representative. DiGiorgio soon realized that the grape business was not very profitable when grapes spoiled on the vine for lack of pickers. Apparently Chavez felt that no work was better than no union.

The contracts negotiated by Cesar Chavez with the California grape growers have had dramatic results. So much so that, industry-wide, production is declining and business is much less. Even the individual farm workers, whom Chavez claims to be helping, are making less today.

However Chavez, who has never received the support of the farm workers themselves, and who has never worked in a field for more than three months himself, now has a multi-million dollar union with which he hopes to eventually obtain a strangle hold on all American agricultural workers.

To support Cesar Chavez and his union is to support a marxist-revolutionary operation aimed at bringing the entire farm production of our country under the control of the Communists.

That so many of the clergy, and especially so many members of the once great anti-communist Roman Catholic Church, are involved in supporting this revolutionary gang, is cause for great concern.

Many of the people in Delano, California, knowing full well Cesar Chavez and his revolutionary tactics, feel that he is simply using the churches, and especially the Catholic Church, in his crusade in much the same way Fidel Castro used the churches in Cuba when he came to power. Join with us to help awaken the American public as to the truth of Cesar Chavez, and his communist-styled movement, before he becomes to America what Castro is today to Cuba.

*JHR Greene*

J. R. Greene  
Section Leader  
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" I believe the information contained in this flyer is of vital concern to the Catholic Community."

*Francis E. Fenton*

Fr. Francis L. Fenton, S.T.L.  
Roman Catholic Priest  
Member, National Council of  
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For further information regarding how you can help, or how you can join The John Birch Society, please contact: The Local Chapters of The John Birch Society, P.O. Box 31, Stratford, Conn. 06497